

MEMPHIS, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1995

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

NT3

BUSINESS 002 AD# 349671101
ACCT 32144100 CLASS
ENSAFEE/ALLEN & HOSHALL
PUBLIC MEETING
ISSUE DATE 04/20/95
assistance efforts

By John Semien
The Commercial Appeal

For months now, many of the prayers offered at the Jesus Prayer Room of Deliverance have been for the recovery of its founder, Pearline Hill Smith-Coleman.

Once an energetic neighborhood activist for the homeless and needy, Smith-Coleman is confined to a bed in the King's Daughters and Sons Home on McLemore while she recovers from heart surgery.

Smith-Coleman, 76, collapsed last year after persistent dizziness, according to her husband, Ivory Coleman.

"Her legs started giving out on her and one day she just fell," Ivory Coleman said last week. "I carried her to the doctor."

Doctors installed a pacemaker to help regulate Smith-Coleman's heart. For the past several weeks, therapists have worked with her to help her regain use of her legs.

The woman who has fed hundreds of poor people their holiday meals was alert and restless during a visit last week, complaining about the facility's use of Jello as a food staple.

"I need some real food," Smith-Coleman said.

Smith-Coleman said she is prepared to continue her missionary work. "If the Lord is willing," but she added that she now needs more help.

"We need volunteers because now it's just me and my husband," Smith-Coleman said. "I need a program director."

Coleman was optimistic last week that his wife will be able to resume her missionary work.

"With the prayers and with the saints (supporters), I believe she'll be back on her feet and into her work because the Lord is not through with her," he

Locates need help



By Thomas Busler

Ivory Coleman helps his wife, Pearline Hill Smith-Coleman, with lunch at King's Daughters and Sons nursing home. The community activist, recovering from heart surgery, plans to get back to his mission: feeding and caring for the homeless.

Coleman, 53, sat alone last week in the Prayer Room, surrounded by his wife's moments of more than 30 years of missionary work.

Yellowed, hand-made signs proclaiming the power of prayer hung on the walls of the room, amid framed proclamations and certificates of merit from the City of Memphis and various civic organizations.

It was in this large room — part bedroom, part prayer room, part den — that Smith-Coleman and a handful of friends collected donations to feed, clothe and shelter the homeless of South Memphis.

For years, on most Saturdays, Smith-Coleman personally prepared hot meals for 25-40 people in her home on Niles in South Memphis, as well as holiday meals for distribution to the

hungry.

The couple would transport car loads of homeless people to their home for dinner. They also rented a three-room house near their own modest, wood-framed home and made the second home available to the homeless.

Coleman said he was homeless and in need of shelter when he met his wife, whom he refers to as "dear."

"I was homeless myself then because the Lord was chasing me," he said. "I couldn't hold a job or anything. Everything I touched backfired. One day a minister said, 'The Lord wants you to preach for him.'"

"I came over to do some work for her. Her yard man was sick and her yard was really in a mess," he said. "After awhile, she said, 'Son, do you have a place to stay?'"

The couple were married in

1983, and Ivory Coleman became his wife's strong right arm in her crusade against poverty.

But over the past several years, illness and a lack of funds forced the Colemans to cut back.

First the annual dinners stopped. Then the regular Saturday feeding.

In January, they finally had to close the small house they had used as shelter for the homeless.

"We had to let the house go because donations stopped coming in and all of my time was spent taking care of her," Coleman said. "We're going to pick back up as soon as she gets back on her feet."

Coleman said anyone interested in helping with the mission can call 774-6983 or send donations in care of the Jesus Prayer Room of Deliverance, which has an account at First Tennessee Bank.

From Page NT1

NAS

"yes" or "no" recommendations to the commission. Instead, Schufreider said, Mulliner will "make a ground assessment of what the facility has."

"I imagine the secretary would not have made a recommendation to move things to a facility if he didn't believe there wasn't a means by which to accommodate the commands," he said.

"But the staff wants to go to the facility recommended to gain personnel and missions to

independently analyze the situation on the ground independent of the Pentagon's analysis," Schufreider said.

The Pentagon proposed moving to Memphis NAS the Navy Recruiting Command headquarters, the Naval Personnel Research and Development Center, and the functions of the Navy Health Research Center.

"They would join the Bureau of Naval Personnel, which the 1993 commission voted to send to Memphis NAS. The personnel bureau, with about 2,200 staffers, will inhabit many of the buildings to be vacated by the training center."

BYGONE DAYS

From the files
of The Commercial Appeal

April 20, 1865

White refugees from Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi, now in the refugee camp north of the city, called a meeting to express their regrets on the death of President Lincoln. Dr. J. T. Harrington was named chairman of the meeting and Chaplain E. R. Pierce its secretary.

April 20, 1890

Dr. W. B. Rogers, president of the Board of Health, reported yesterday that in three days 300 cartloads of dirt and trash were hauled from the First Ward as the cleaning of the streets continues. The Legislative Council and the Board of Health are standing shoulder to shoulder and are determined to make Memphis a clean city.

Kiwanians cooking up fund-raiser

The Whitehaven Kiwanis Club will hold its annual pancake day breakfast at Whitehaven United Methodist Church from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Proceeds from the breakfast help fund the many projects of the Whitehaven Kiwanis Club throughout the year. The club's major project is lending hospital equipment to home-bound patients during their recuperation.

In addition to the breakfast, Methodist Hospital South will hold a free health fair in the Family Life Center of the church and the church's young people will have a free car wash, with donations accepted.

Adult tickets are \$3, with ages 12 and under at \$1.50. The tickets provides all-you-can-eat sausage, pancakes, coffee and juice.

PUBLIC MEETING

The NAS Memphis Environmental RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) is holding its next meeting at

6:30 pm, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1995
at the
Baker Community Center
7942 Church Street, Millington

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting. Comments and questions are welcomed.

For more information, contact
NAS Memphis Public Affairs Office (901) 873-5761

Bartlett renews issue of firefighters' time off

By Debra Elliott-Tenort
The Commercial Appeal

The Bartlett Board of Mayor and Aldermen's decision to restate compensatory time in the Fire Department less than a year after eliminating it has stirred

calculations were accurate but he also said firefighters lost benefits when the city implemented the pay-only system for overtime.

The new policy received a nod from Fire Chief Paul Smith, who in the past had opposed giving compensatory time off during a

Mayor Bobby Flaherty echoed Dillard.

"I'm very disappointed," Flaherty said. "I thought we'd got all of this behind us, but apparently not. I had no idea this was coming up."

"I would like to give everybody a raise, but we can only do an

hour days.

He also said the firefighters cannot take any time off in a three-month period to earn increments of the compensatory time.

"It looks like a plum but it's really not much," Pulmar said

38054.000
13.05.00.0053
1D-00189